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U.S. Funds for Soviet Studies Are in Jeopardy

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 19 — Supporters of a \$5 million State Department program for academic research on Soviet-bloc affairs are hoping to save the money, which they say was a casualty of the war on spending.

Although the program had the blessings of the National Security Council and of the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the funds were deleted from the \$12 billion appropriation bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Oct. 3. The full Senate is expected to vote on

the bill in the coming week.

The problem was an example of the fate of programs that have fallen prey to the budget ax as Congress struggles to curb the Federal deficit.

"We marked up five major bills in the committee that day, and the blood on the floor was ankle-deep when we were done," a committee aide said.

Authorized by Congress in 1983, the Soviet and Eastern European Research and Training Act was an attempt to guarantee long-term financing in a field that some believe is vital to American interests.

Unlike more specific contract projects directed by the Central Intelli-

gence Agency and by the Defense Department, the State Department program is intended to train younger people who would replace the aging generation of experts on the Soviet bloc.

Senator Warren Rudman, Republican of New Hampshire, who is acting head of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the State Department appropriation, agrees that the program's goals are laudable. But he said that when he was forced at the 11th hour to come up with \$68 million in cuts, something had to give.

"We started with programs that were of direct interest to the American people — counterterrorism, the F.B.I.,

things like that," Senator Rudman said. "We came down to the things you need and the things you would like to have. Anybody who tells me that Soviet studies is more important than counterterrorism is not reading the same newspapers I am."

He said that if the money was restored on the Senate floor, other programs would have to be cut.

"So I told them, you tell me what to cut," Senator Rudman said. "Should it be money for embassy security, or how about the budget for the Secretary's dining room? The last time I looked, the State Department was part of the Administration, and this Administration says it wants to hold the line on spending. They cannot have it both ways."

Robert M. Rosenzweig, president of

the Association of American Universities, concedes that the choices are difficult, but his organization is urging lawmakers to consider the long-term value of Soviet-bloc research.

"The most senior people in this field received their training in the postwar period, and they are reaching their golden years," Mr. Rosenzweig said. "It is not at all clear who will be there to replace them."

The program, which received its first \$4.8 million last year, gave the money to 10 research organizations, which in turn made grants to 624 scholars in 41 states. According to Paul E. Cook, who heads the State Department's Soviet and Eastern European Research Advisory Committee, the largest grant was \$76,000, for the University of California for a data bank tracing career paths in

the Soviet bureaucracy.

"It is an important part of learning more about the emerging generation of Soviet leaders," said Mr. Cook, for many years the State Department's leading Kremlinologist and now a consultant there. "The purpose of the kind of research this program funds is not to learn what, but why."

Supporters of the program, who say the Soviet Union spends \$200 million a year to train specialists on the United States, are counting on Senator Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana, who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to persuade his colleagues to restore the money.

If that effort fails, they are hoping the Senate will accept the House version of the bill, with the \$5 million, when the two chambers go to conference.